



Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats: 2021 Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

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Name of person filling out this questionnaire: Maya Wiley

Please answer each of the following questions to the best of your ability:

1) If elected, what would be your top priority in your first term?

As Mayor, I will walk into office on day one with mission-critical senior leadership appointed who are experts and implementers -- who know how to manage our city budget and build our revenue in a moral, strategic and equitable way that will fundamentally transform our City to improve the lives of all New Yorkers, especially New Yorkers hard hit by COVID-19. We must not only bring New York back from the brink of this COVID-19 created economic crisis; we must do it in a way that cured what ailed that COVID-19 laid bare -- housing that was too expensive, schools that were not educating all our children well, jobs that kept us struggling to make it month-to-month and so many other problems. That means we must look at the budget clearly and manage it in a way that meets our basic needs, like picking up the trash, and adds revenue while cutting fat and ending inefficiencies: a moral and strategic budget. At the same time, we must transform how government supports job creation, small businesses, ensures more safe and affordable housing, and reins in the NYPD so that it protects and serves, rather than surveils and abuses residents. It's not enough to just return to the New York that predated COVID, though we must rebuild. We must reimagine our city and use this crisis to face structural inequality, actual racism, and finally fix what has been broken for far too long for Black, Brown, LGBTQ, Indigenous, Immigrant, and other communities and women of all races.

2) What personal and/or professional experiences do you believe make you uniquely qualified to run for New York City Mayor? Attach resume or CV if desired.

I am a change-making leader. I am a nationally recognized racial justice and equity advocate with 25 years of experience creating change by bringing people together to develop and implement ideas to dismantle structural racism. I have worked as a civil rights litigator and lobbyist, a senior leader in program development in the world's largest human rights foundation, founded and led a national racial justice advocacy organization and, after 25 years, joined senior leadership in NYC government, showing it could do more and deliver more to New Yorkers, particularly New Yorkers of color. As Counsel to the Mayor, I delivered for New York City I helped unblock a city government log-jam to help get the City's first sanctuary city law passed. I increased minority and women owned business enterprise (MWBE) contracts from \$500 million in spending to \$1.6 billion in one year (and matching it in the second year) and laid the foundation for



what has become the Mayor's Office on MWBE. I held telecommunications firms accountable to their contractual commitments to get residents broadband services, including the lawsuit recently settled with Verizon on rolling out FiOS. I created the first-ever capital construction budget line in NYC history and found the revenue in the expense budget and created the program that got every unit in Queens Bridge Houses free broadband – an internet safety net for those who can't afford it. I did all that in 2.5 short years and as a newcomer to City government. I voted with my feet in 2016 and left city service because I knew I could do more independently. I became a Senior Vice President in one of the city's major universities, the New School which includes Lang College, New School for Social Research, the Milano School, and Parsons School of Design. From that perch and with all those responsibilities, I continued to work to make change in this city. I became the Chair of the Civilian Complaint Review Board to hold police accountable for misconduct and got the case of the police officer who killed Eric Garner over to the police department, finally beginning the process of getting him fired. I also worked to improve public education as a Co-Chair of the School Diversity Advisory Group, wherein less than two years we met with over 800 New Yorkers and generated two reports with comprehensive recommendations for fair and equitable schools. At the New School, during that same period, I founded the Digital Equity Laboratory on universal and inclusive broadband and we worked on projects to continue to fight for privacy, create more digital sanctuary, and more broadband access for low income communities.

I am the candidate in this race who has worked as a change-maker outside and inside government, knows how it works, and has a track record of moving big ideas, removing barriers, and doing it in a way that listens, learns, partners, and performs.

I am a veteran of both the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and the ACLU and was a former Legal Analyst for NBC News and MSNBC — where I argued against Trump's attacks on our civil liberties and democratic norms — and was the founder and president of the Center for Social Inclusion. I was also Senior Advisor on Race and Poverty at the Open Society Foundations, the largest funder of human rights work the world over.

I am committed to a New York City so that every New Yorker can afford to live here, get a decent job here, get a good education here and have a decent quality of life here while doing it. That is- with the dignity every New Yorker deserves and that's why I'm running for Mayor. I will fight for New Yorkers of all races, all religions, all classes, all types; so that no matter who we are or how we see ourselves, we can find a home here. My vision is a New York that rises from the ashes of twin pandemics — coronavirus and systemic racism that denies investment to people of color. New York must rise together; rising above hate, rising from joblessness to dignity, rising from homelessness to hope, rising from an affordability crisis to communities that sustain all of us.

This is within our reach, but it requires bold leadership that fearlessly confronts the realities New Yorkers face. Leadership that marshals all of the government's resources to make history, not deals; and that transcends the business-as-usual governmental tinkering to make truly transformational progress. New Yorkers cannot afford the politics of least resistance and deserve leadership that will beat a path to shared prosperity — to become one city, rising together, out of the ashes, and into a future we build and live together.

3) List all of your endorsements, including but not limited to elected officials, unions, political clubs and community-based organizations.

Democracy for America, Senate Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris, Assemblymember Michael Blake, City Council members Stephen Levin and Helen Rosenthal.



4) What, if any, groups or industries will you not accept campaign contributions from? If any, please note specifically whose money you will not accept.

I am not taking donations from real estate developers, large landlords, or lobbyists. I have also signed the no fossil fuel contributions pledge and will not be taking money from the fossil fuel industry.

5) How do you propose helping NYC recover from the COVID pandemic and resulting economic recession, particularly given the projected shortfall in city revenue?

We don't just need a recovery, we need to reimagine what New York City looks like. COVID has not hit every community the same, and our plan needs to reflect that.

While some industries have partially recovered, people of color continue to suffer the worst, economically. As of September, Black and Latinx households had much higher rates of food and housing insecurity, and Asian households were experiencing considerable housing insecurity. Nearly a third of households with incomes below \$50,000 were food and housing insecure. These examples make clear that while some in the city are doing okay, entire swaths of New York are struggling just to get by and are in danger of being forgotten.

This is why, as the first plank of my Economic Recovery Plan, I announced New Deal New York, a \$10B capital investment program to put residents back to work and invest in the future of our communities. A smart recovery is an equitable recovery and relies on investment in a sustainable economy, not on austerity measures that tell hungry people to simply tighten their belts. With this in mind, my plan will create a 5-year centrally managed \$10B capital spending program for public works projects. The program will fund much-needed development, infrastructure repairs, and enhancements. The fund would consist of committed unspent capital funds and new capital dollars financed by City debt.

But make no mistake, we have a revenue crisis and need more additional revenue than we can raise on our own. Rethinking our revenue strategies calls us to come together and ask the wealthiest New Yorkers to step up and contribute what they can. This includes revenue options such as a millionaires tax, pied-a-tier tax, and vacancy tax on commercial properties. These are taxes that would be resolved in Albany, but there is a new progressive wind in our capitol so the chance to pass these types of taxes has never been higher. We can generate new money by leveraging city assets that businesses want to access--from our rooftops for telecommunications to our world-class workforce for industry.

We must also leverage the power of our tens of billions of dollars in annual governmental spending that we will spend, revenue crisis or no. New York City's budget is larger than that of most states, and our spending has a big enough impact to further important social and economic goals. Clearly, supporting Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises is an integral part of the puzzle and we will expand our efforts in this area, by prioritizing procurement from local MWBE and local businesses for all projects. We also need to engage in new kinds of investments that support our recovery while addressing the structural issues that cause racial and gender inequities. New Deal New York will target investments based on a comprehensive



analysis of capital needs across five boroughs, using metrics including racial disparities in income, unemployment, capital need and city investment over the past decade, to ensure capital dollars are utilized in the most underinvested communities first.

In addition, we need a community first recovery plan that helps reimagine our economy and creates good jobs — which is why I am holding the People’s Assemblies across the city so that our recovery plan is responsive to what New Yorkers actually need. New Yorkers deserve to have a say in what their future looks like.

6) What measures would you take to improve educational opportunities for all students in NYC? How do you plan to ensure that all NYC children are able to attend high-quality, integrated schools? Do you support D15’s integration plan as it has been implemented? What changes, if any, would you make to the current D15 integration plan?

We have been debating for decades how to create public schools that are excellent, equitable, and serve all of our kids in innovative, diverse learning environments. This pandemic has laid bare some of the inadequacies of our system – like the digital divide that was a barrier to a full and fair education for hundreds of thousands of children in our system, including the 100,000 who are homeless. And students of all races have been harmed by the lack of clarity on school closings and openings, while parents are left stressed and confused about what happens in Fall 2021. Students have lost a year and we need to support students, teachers, principals, and parents to get our kids back to where they should be.

These challenges give us an opportunity to transform our schools and to think big about how to serve the unique needs of each child. We must reimagine education in the City through big ideas. We must consider how kids can virtually join classrooms for courses that they are interested in and look at repurposing vacant storefronts and buildings to provide much-needed space for learning--while simultaneously supporting business owners and communities.

A transformed school system must tackle the structural inequality in our schools—inequality that cheats our students of color, low income students, students with learning differences, and those experiencing housing insecurity. Additionally, we must provide make technology available to every student so that they can stay connected and have full access to all the educational opportunities technology provides, while we support our school system to make better use of technology as an educational tool.

Because of the pandemic, we now have the opportunity to rethink how our education system works—including how we allocate resources. We should consider our class sizes, especially ways to reduce them. We should consider how to support our teachers in ways that better empower them to do the kind of meaningful teaching that first called them to the profession. And we also must consider ways to expand our investments in nurturing the unique talents and gifts of low-income students and develop new models for how to run effective individualized education programs.



As the chair of Mayor de Blasio's School Diversity Advisory Group, I led a process with 40+ community leaders to present a series of proposals to tackle the structural inequalities and racism that exists in our school system. These proposals included ending discriminatory admissions practices and support for district-level integration plans such as District 15.

I understand that the D15 plan has been successful in diversifying middle schools and overall I understand that it has gone well. There are lessons to learn from the roll-out and I would work with stakeholders in districts on the best strategies and methods to meet all our educational goals, including equity and integration goals. This administration has had a poor track record of parent engagement, most glaringly during the process of closing schools in the spring and reopening them this fall. As Mayor, I will prioritize parent engagement in the policy-making process before decisions are made.

7) How would you have handled the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 academic year? How would you prepare for a second wave of this pandemic? How would you propose to ensure that the needs of highly vulnerable children with special needs, who are homeless, come from poor families, and/or live in households without adults who could aid their learning are not left further behind when remote learning has to be relied on?

First and foremost, I would have started with the guidelines from public health experts. Stopping the spread of this pandemic and keeping our children, families, teachers, and administrators safe would have been job one. I would have shared that information and the guidelines with all stakeholders so that everyone had the facts to make personal decisions for themselves and their families.

Second, I would have started discussions with all stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and administrators, about when and how we would reopen schools. I lead with the advice and counsel of smart and experienced experts and with the engagement of those who will be impacted. Clarity and communication that sets expectations, with meaningful information to support planning and personal decisions would have been key for me.

The last-second decisions and poor communications have robbed parents, teachers of any peace of mind in a traumatic time and undermined principals' ability to plan. Our children have lost a year of learning thanks to a failure to plan to reopen well. This includes a neglect to invest meaningful support for online learning or come up with creative solutions for safe in-person learning. Furthermore, it is too often women who bear the brunt of the stress of balancing children's needs and work.

We also need to ensure that our children are getting what they need to support their educational and emotional development. Schools have not been the source of our COVID-19 spikes. We need to do everything possible to keep schools open safely, particularly for those students who are struggling to get internet access or a device, have special needs, or just plain need that the social and emotional support school and being around other children offer. The lack of urgency has been glaring, as has been the inadequate support for teachers and principals around effective online learning.



As Mayor, I would have invested early in technology and broadband access to ensure all of our students -- no matter where they live or how many resources they have -- have the tools they need to learn remotely. I would have used the summer to support teachers in the best pedagogy and practices to teach on-line.

Access to technology and internet service was a problem pre-pandemic. That is why I established a digital equity program when I was the President of the Center for Social Inclusion and championed universal broadband when I was in City Hall. While in City government, I spearheaded the plan to get free broadband in all of Queensbridge Houses, making it the only NYCHA development in the City that had reliable broadband before COVID.

8) Do you support allowing non-citizen New York City residents to vote in City-based elections? Why or why not?

YES.

All residents of New York City should have the right to vote. Just as non-citizens were able to vote in school board elections of the past, they should be able to vote in municipal elections of the future. That said, the City does not have the authority to require non-citizen voting in state elections, and they will likely require different ballots. We have all seen the dysfunction that is the Board of Elections, so we must ensure that a non-citizen voting program can be implemented safely and does not put our immigrant neighbors at risk.

9) Do you support any campaign finance reforms for NYC? If so, please describe.

I am a big supporter of the City's campaign finance program and believe strongly in the public matching funds program. I also participate in the new public campaign finance program that caps donations and helps keep big money out of politics. No New Yorker should be able to gain access or influence based on the relationships they have or the money in their pocket.

10) Now that the State government has passed the Reproductive Health Act, what steps would you have the Council and City Hall take to increase reproductive healthcare access, including maternal healthcare, and to do so equitably?

Black women are 8 times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than white women and are at 3 times greater risk to have a serious complication. The root causes are institutional racism and gender inequality. Maternal health begins before birth. Expectant parents must have access to basic necessities such as food and stable housing. We must ensure that parents who are expecting to give birth have access to reproductive community health centers where they can be connected with necessary prenatal healthcare. We also know that having a Black doctor increases the health outcomes for mothers and newborns.

As Mayor, I will build upon and strengthen support for the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and the NYC DOHMH Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Steering Committee so that we have action steps that will produce reproductive health equity. I will also work with DOHMH to increase oversight of New York City hospitals and require data collection and public reporting of maternal mortality rates by geography so that we can more strategically target interventions and develop partnerships.



Additionally, I will ensure that the Department of Consumer Affairs and Worker Protections is strictly enforcing all applicable laws so that expectant parents can take the necessary steps to attend to their health without risking their livelihood.

11) The MTA is facing a significant revenue shortfall and many parts of the city lack access to reliable public transportation. What measures would you implement and/or enforce, to promote safe, efficient, and accessible transportation options for mass transit users, pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers in Brooklyn and in the City as a whole?

New York City deserves a 22nd-century public transit system that gets residents where they need to go, quickly, safely, and in a way that is sustainable. That starts with fixing our subways. To do that, we must actively engage in talks with Washington to shape transit investments and infrastructure dollars that we need to save the country's largest subway system and bring back an economy in the largest city in the country and in the State of New York that contributes 8% of the country's gross domestic product while representing only 1% of the landmass. Our contribution as a state is outsized and the investment we deserve should mirror our contributions.

The State of New York runs the MTA and that means, in addition to smart and knowledgeable mayoral appointees on the MTA board, a new relationship with Albany so that we are working as partners to bring back our public transit system. It also requires conversations with directly impacted communities through People's Assemblies, which we are holding as a campaign, and other engagement mechanisms so that those typically underserved have a voice in mapping out our transit future.

In addition to community input, we will need to evaluate the MTA's financial reality. Bridge and tunnel tolls contribute to revenue streams that the MTA badly needs. This revenue could be used to invest in transportation to give commuters an alternative to cars and expand transit infrastructures, such as bus lanes and bike shares. These funds can also be used to upgrade our existing transit to make it accessible for New Yorkers with disabilities.

In addition, two of the biggest issues facing our transit system's safety and design are oversight and accessibility. I will end NYPD oversight of routine traffic violations and examine reallocation of a portion of the NYPD budget to DOT for infrastructural investment and enforcement.

I plan on expanding traffic safety and transit infrastructures such as red-light cameras and street redesign elements including protected cross-walks, bike lanes, and BRT bus lanes. These infrastructural investments are proven to be more effective enforcement measures than police-based oversight, and they expand access to transit options. Research by Transportation Alternatives Shows that street enforcement cameras reduce speeding by 63 percent and traffic fatalities by 55 percent. A DOT study of the Prospect Park West bike lane in Brooklyn showed that the introduction of a protected bike lane led to a 94 percent drop in cycling on the sidewalk. Conversely, New Yorkers, especially immigrants, people of color, and people experiencing homelessness have been overpoliced in routine traffic and sidewalk stops. In 2019, 90 percent of NYPD summonses for jaywalking were given to Black or Latinx people.

I also plan on shifting street oversight from the NYPD to the DOT. This will include expanding upon the number of existing DOT enforcement agents and park rangers. Investment in better infrastructure, rather than arbitrary traffic stops, will make our streets safer.



12) How would you ensure fairness in employment, salary, workplace conditions, and promotion? What is your position on strengthening and increasing access to union membership?

I am and always will be pro-union, and will do what I can as Mayor to support workers' right to join a union and to raise standards for those workers who are not yet in a union. That means enforcing laws such as paid sick leave, the fair workweek laws, and the recently passed law protecting fast-food workers from being fired for organizing – Just Cause. It also means doing everything within my power to support union organizing beyond enforcement. That means developing responsibly and setting clear ground rules and using the regulatory authority the City has to encourage union employment. It also means using the bully pulpit in cases where the City does not have direct legal authority. We must continue to grow our economy and attract businesses to do so. But that growth must mean jobs with dignity and justice, which means GOOD business. It means using the power we have over franchises to hold companies like Verizon accountable for the commitments they make that support a union workforce, just as I did when I was Counsel to the Mayor. It also means listening to union members and elected leaders to understand what is most helpful in each union drive.

13) How would you ensure that underserved communities receive fair and equitable treatment from city government? What policies do you support that would level the playing field for historically marginalized groups?

An economic recovery that is equitable will be one of the most critical components of my agenda. As a city reeling from the ravages of COVID-19, we must meet this moment by doing more than returning to what was broken in January 2020. We need to use recovery as an opportunity to strengthen and transform our economy. That means placing people hardest hit in this historic crisis at the center of our response, as my New Deal New York strategy does, and ensure an economy that works for all New Yorkers. We must address the racial wealth gap, pay gap for women, and economic security for all. I have dedicated my life's work, both inside and outside of government, to transforming systems that perpetuate economic exploitation, and dehumanization and my approach to economic policy during our City's recovery from the pandemic will continue this work.

There are three major steps to get us where we need to go. First, we must leverage what we have. Second, we must tap the wealth that exists in this city and other forms of revenues we can create, and third, we must have a responsible budget, which means a moral budget that cuts the fat, not the bone, and focuses the resources of government on equity.

We have resources and assets, even in this crisis. New York City's budget is larger than that of most states and our spending has a big impact and can further important social and economic goals. Clearly, supporting Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises and small neighborhood businesses can help bring us back with more equity and help our communities recover and we will expand our efforts in this area, including through New Deal New York. We also need to engage in new kinds of investments that support our recovery while addressing the structural issues that cause racial and gender inequities. New Deal New York will help us use capital construction dollars in a way that helps solve community problems and create more opportunities in addition to jobs, by creating community centers, child care facilities, and more.

Creating more revenue is a must, given the budget shortfalls this economic crisis has created. We need strategies that call us to come together and ask the wealthiest New Yorkers to step up and contribute what they can, and other taxes that advance social good, like vacancy and pied-a-terre taxes and halting the stock transfer tax rebate. We can generate new money by leveraging city assets that businesses want to



access--from our rooftops for telecommunications to our world-class workforce for industry.

Creating more revenue will help us continue to make necessary investments in people and communities who have too long been ignored. A major part of our recovery strategy must involve investing in building new infrastructure that creates jobs, makes the City more resilient, and contributes to climate justice. And this investment can address the racial wealth gap directly by, for example, facilitating community ownership in renewable energy creation--which will generate wealth for low-income communities and communities of color. We must also establish better career pathways for our young people, including partnerships with our higher education institutions and industry to create workforce development programs that deliver fulfilling jobs while encouraging economic growth. These measures can help address wealth and pay disparities. We must support cooperative models and also affordable commercial rents so that low-income workers and entrepreneurs in low-income communities have real opportunities to have more economic power.

And, of course, we need strong enforcement of existing laws that address or seek to prevent wage disparities and to do what we can in government to support the rights of workers to come together and join a union to collectively bargain.

14) What policy and practice changes are needed for NYC government to ensure sufficient quality housing that actually is affordable for existing residents in Brooklyn neighborhoods?

We need to change the City's approach to land use and rezonings in ways that are principled. That means land use and rezonings that create and maintain affordable housing, with a focus on deep and permanent affordability over simple unit production. All land use and housing plans should include a fair distribution of resources and development that takes into account community needs and corrects for historic disinvestment and displacement.

Communities should have the opportunity to acquire their own housing. This means exploring programs where distressed properties are acquired by the City for use as permanently affordable housing to be managed by nonprofit affordable housing developers, investing in community land trusts, keeping housing built on public land permanently affordable, and exploring measures like TOPA/COPA at the city level.

In this current crisis, we also need to ensure that people can stay in their homes. I support the expansion of the right to counsel to provide free legal representation to tenants facing eviction. We also need to find ways to immediately house people. Approximately 4,000 people are sleeping on the streets on any given night. At the same time, around 100 hotels will likely go bankrupt due to the pandemic. As Mayor, I will explore ways for the city to acquire these properties to convert them into permanently supportive housing. But in order to keep people in their homes and realize the humanitarian benefits and financial savings from doing so, we need to make a significant initial investment in direct rent relief.

In December, I introduced an Eviction Prevention Plan that begins by using the \$251M in Emergency Rental Assistance funding from the Federal Stimulus for the City. This will provide much-needed relief, but it still does not come close to addressing the massive housing crisis that has been exacerbated by this pandemic. In the long term, the best defense against homelessness and displacement is ensuring that New York's housing stock is safe and truly affordable for all New Yorkers. We need to build on the success of the housing first model by moving homeless individuals to subsidized housing and then linking them to support services. We would save money by investing in permanent supportive housing



and models such as supported SROS.

15) What policies would you pass or enforce to ensure public housing/NYCHA repair, upkeep and security, and access to alternate housing and services when lacking essentials such as heat, gas and hot water? What is your position on “privatization” of public housing/NYCHA, and on City government sale of public housing “open areas” (outdoor seating & recreation plots) and air rights to private developers?

Public housing *must* remain public. Period. As mayor, I will have a comprehensive affordable housing policy that includes NYCHA, rather than siloing it and homelessness as separate policy categories. NYCHA must be considered as part of a holistic approach to housing. While NYCHA has its own specific needs based on federal oversight, it represents a significant chunk of our city’s affordable housing stock and that must be recognized.

We will fight to get the needed resources from Washington because the federal government has ignored the needs of public housing for too long and now we have a real opportunity to get more of the investments public housing residents deserve. We also must do more as a city. I will focus part of the \$10B [New Deal New York](#) infrastructure fund on NYCHA rehabilitation, including vacant NYCHA apartments that must be made safe and habitable apartments for families who are in desperate need of safe and stable housing. As Mayor, I will work in partnership with NYCHA tenants, to create more governance and oversight that includes tenants in the decision making and policy process. Too often, NYCHA tenants have had decisions made for them without them.

16) Given the City’s Covid and post-Covid economic crisis, how would you approach your role in addressing the city’s carceral system, including the plan to close Rikers?

Closing Rikers Island is a moral imperative. Rikers Island has long been a disgrace to New York City and closing it needs to happen. I support the CloseRikers plan and understand that even as we aim to lower incarceration rates, we will need robust alternatives to incarceration, and also, in some cases, we need ways to transform how we house those who pose real threats to public safety in a way that is humane and supports meaningful approaches that support their ability to reenter communities safely. We must make these safe environments that help rehabilitate individuals and ensure they are supported. The current borough jails are not in the condition necessary to provide humane housing options. In addition,

16) Describe your vision for public safety in New York City? What, if any, functions would you like to see removed from the police department? What agencies assume the functions removed from the



NYPD?

We need to put the Public back in Public Safety. This means a top to bottom restructuring of the NYPD, beginning with strong civilian oversight at the front end of policing -- policies that make clear what policing is and is not, what conduct will not be tolerated, as well as the priorities of policing, which I describe as problem-oriented, rather than punitive. When I am Mayor, I will do the following:

1. Run a full audit of the NYPD's budget -- including the out of budget expenses such as settlements -- to assess the facts and make necessary cuts, including to the number of uniformed officers
2. Move mental health calls, routine traffic violations, and school safety out of the NYPD. Assert civilian oversight of all policies and priorities of the NYPD on the front end. We cannot only assert civilian oversight to engage in discipline. We must prevent the nefarious acts from happening at the outset.
3. Hire a police commissioner that has not just moved up the ranks of the NYPD rank and file. We need a new model of leadership to work as a partner with the people to transform policing.
4. Create a shift from "containment and control" policing that produces strategies like unconstitutional "stop and frisks" and make "community and problem-oriented policing" the model, which requires collaboration and partnership with other agencies and communities. This approach focuses on underlying conditions identified and understood with communities and drawing in and working with other governmental partners to solve them. Eric Garner lost his life because he allegedly sold an untaxed cigarette. A community and problem-oriented approach would have worked with store owners, who were complaining, and also other agencies to address what was happening and how to find solutions that did not require an arrest. Too often the NYPD responds to problems of poverty, not of crime. We need to ensure that if the NYPD receives a call about a poverty problem, the right city agencies are involved and the NYPD is not.

In terms of agency restructuring, I would move routine traffic enforcement, including the enforcement of the Open Streets program, to the Department of Transportation. This would make progress toward addressing the clear racial bias in car and bike stops. As evidenced by a Streetsblog analysis, 86.4% of tickets for biking on the sidewalk were given to Black and Latinx New Yorkers. There needs to be a significant reorientation in the way police interact with the public. The NYPD should not be responsible for daily traffic enforcement. I also commit to permanently ending police oversight of street vendors, a promise the current administration has failed to follow through on.

In schools, I support the transition of School Safety Agents from the NYPD to the DOE and plan to reform school safety efforts to be a holistic commitment to supporting the well-being of students rather than punitive and reactive measures. School safety should be about creating a safe and healthy environment for students to thrive and for the school to be a safe environment for all who enter. We will create student support teams that help identify students at risk who need support to manage trauma, bullying, difficulties at home, learning differences, and other conditions that can produce inappropriate and dangerous behaviors. We will expand school guidance counselors and social workers so that every school has these capacities on student support teams, along with teachers, administrators, and School Safety Agents, whose position descriptions, training, and role will be appropriate to a student support model. Behavioral issues will no longer be treated solely as problems to be resolved by School Safety Agents. This will create improved learning outcomes, reduce student-police conflict in schools, and create safer and healthier school communities.



17) Do you support changes to the ULURP process and to other NYC zoning mechanisms? If so, what specific changes do you support?

Our zoning process is broken. In order to address the multitude of structural problems, we need to implement a two-pronged approach. First, we need long term comprehensive planning. We can no longer view projects through the lens of them being isolated developments. We need a vision that is developed by communities as a whole. However, we do need to grow. As Mayor, I will lay out principles that will govern any developments that we would support. These principles will include:

1. Community Benefits: real, tangible, and decided upon within the community
2. Affordable housing and displacement prevention
3. Good jobs accompanied by an accountability mechanism to ensure those jobs are gainful
4. Revenue: We need to ensure housing for low income, and extremely low income people is built but in safe, accessible locations.

As Mayor, I will lead from the front. Development isn't a private-sector enterprise and we can't leave it to the private sector to establish the rules and ensure the benefits. We must prioritize building permanently and deeply affordable housing for low income and extremely low income people across the city, not prioritizing certain zoning designations.

18) Do you have a plan to reduce and prevent homelessness in Brooklyn and NYC? Explain your plan.

In this current crisis, we need to ensure that people can stay in their homes. I support the expansion of the right to counsel to provide free legal representation to tenants facing eviction. We also need to find ways to immediately house people. Approximately 4,000 people are sleeping on the streets on any given night. At the same time, around 100 hotels will likely go bankrupt due to the pandemic. As Mayor, I will explore ways for the city to acquire these properties to convert them into permanently supportive housing.

But in order to keep people in their homes and realize the humanitarian benefits and financial savings from doing so, we need to make a significant initial investment in direct rent relief. This week, Congressional Republicans finally stopped playing politics with people's lives and a COVID-19 relief package was passed. Based on initial estimates, we anticipate \$251M in Emergency Rental Assistance funding for the City. This will provide much-needed relief, but it still does not come close to addressing the massive housing crisis that has been exacerbated by this pandemic.

In the long term, the best defense against homelessness is ensuring that New York's housing stock is safe and truly affordable for all New Yorkers. We need to build on the success of the housing first model by moving homeless individuals to subsidized housing and then linking them to support services. We would save money by investing in permanent supportive housing and models such as supported SROS.

I put forward a [plan](#) to:

- 1) provide long-term solutions and stability instead of continuing the destabilizing pattern of providing month-by-month aid that does nothing to ease the painful psychic burden of housing uncertainty;
- 2) stop New Yorkers hit by the crisis from being evicted;
- 3) help small and nonprofit landlords who cannot afford to absorb the loss of nonpayments; and
- 4) address the reality that many families will still fall into homelessness and require rapid relief to



remain in, or return to, housing.